

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An active part for a surge arrester having two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~) which are arranged along an axis (~~z~~) at a distance from one another, having at least one cylindrical varistor column (~~30~~), which is provided between the two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~), and having at least one dielectric loop (~~40, 41, 42, 43, 411, 412~~), which is supported on the two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~) or on one of the two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~) and a connection piece (~~31~~), which is arranged between the two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~) in the varistor column (~~30~~), and holds together the varistor column (~~30~~) or a section of the varistor column (~~30~~), which is bounded by the supporting connecting fitting (~~10, 20~~) and the connection piece (~~31~~), thus forming a contact force, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the two connecting fittings (~~10, 20~~) has an electrode, which is arranged at right angles to the axis (~~z~~) and is in the form of a plate (~~11, 12~~), as well as an electrical connection (~~12, 22~~), which is integrally formed on the plate (~~11, 12~~), and means for supporting one end of the dielectric loop (~~40, 41, 42, 43, 411, 412~~), which means are formed in the plate (~~11, 12~~) and/or are integrally formed at the edge of the plate (~~11, 12~~).

2. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the electrical connection ~~(12, 22)~~ is flat.

3. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the electrical connection ~~(12, 22)~~ is in the form of a perforated plate or a plug-in contact.

4. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ an axially symmetrical centering tab ~~(15, 25)~~ projects from a surface of the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ facing the varistor column ~~(30)~~ and is used to guide at least one cup spring ~~(16, 26)~~ which is in the form of a conical annular disk.

5. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the diameter of the centering tab ~~(15, 25)~~ and the internal diameter of the annular disk are matched to one another so as to prevent the cup spring ~~(16, 26)~~ from being pressed flat.

6. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~ ~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the supporting means have at least one shoulder ~~(131, 132, 231, 232)~~ which is integrally formed at the edge of the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and is narrower than the diameter of the varistor column ~~(30)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the supporting means have a shoulder ~~(200, 201)~~
which is formed in the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and passes through the axis ~~(z)~~ of the varistor column
~~(30)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the supporting means have two shoulders ~~(13, 14,~~
~~23, 24)~~ which are formed in the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ and are each arranged in one of two sections
of the plate ~~(11, 21)~~ edge which run in a straight line.

9. (Currently Amended) The active part as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 or 8,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein the shoulder has a surface which is largely parallel to
the plate surface over the majority of the plate extent, and ~~in that~~ wherein the loop ~~(40, 41,~~
~~42, 43)~~ is in the form of a rectangle and is supported on the inside by means of one of the
rectangular faces on the surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A surge arrester as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~
claim 1 having a housing ~~(50)~~ which is composed of insulating material and surrounds the
varistor column ~~(30)~~, parts of the connecting fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ and the dielectric loop ~~(40,~~
~~41, 42, 43)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The surge arrester as claimed in claim 10,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein electrical connections ~~(12, 22)~~ of the fittings ~~(10, 20)~~ are
passed out of the housing ~~(50)~~.